

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. J. B. Adams

FROM : Legal Counsel

SUBJECT: HUSTON PLAN PUBLIC HEARINGS, 9-23-75;
SENSTUDY 75

1-Mr. Wannall - Encls.
1-Mr. Cregar - Encls.
1-Mr. Moore - Encls.
1-Mr. Mintz - Encls.
DATE: 9-25-75

1-Mr. Hotis - Encls.
1-Mr. Daly - Encls.
1-Mr. Miller - Encls.
1-Mr. Taylor - Encls.

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Enclosed are declassified White House memoranda dated July, 1970, July 23, 1970, July 28, 1970, and August 5, 1970, respectively, which relate to the so called Huston Plan, and which were released by Chairman Church to the press at captioned hearings.

Tom Charles Huston, former Associate Counsel to and former Staff Assistant to President Nixon, furnished testimony on the establishment of the ad hoc Interagency Committee on Intelligence in July, 1970, under the chairmanship of Director Hoover. He described former Assistant Director William Sullivan as chairman of the so called working study group within the ad hoc Committee which had convened three or four meetings in Mr. Hoover's FBI Office in June, 1970. Also present during these meetings was Charles D. Brennan, former Assistant Director.

When questioned by Senator Church as to why the ad hoc Committee final report had not been presented to Mr. Hoover for his approval until CIA, DIA and the other Committee members had signified their approval, Mr. Huston testified Messrs. Sullivan and Brennan felt "this procedure was necessary in order to 'force' Mr. Hoover's acquiescence and for added impact to resolve Mr. Hoover's reluctance to participate in the Plan."

Mr. Huston's testimony underscored previous public testimony by CIA Director Helms to the effect that mid-level agency personnel engaged in agency policy decisions without accountability to their superiors nor to the President.

Enclosures (4)

RTT:lgp
(10)

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Dec 31

Memorandum to Mr. Adams from Legal Counsel
Re: HUSTON PLAN PUBLIC HEARINGS,

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

[Handwritten signatures and initials]
JH
K/1
Pen
WRW/SSM
JBAH

Memorandum to Mr. Adams from Legal Counsel
Re: HUSTON PLAN PUBLIC HEARINGS,

He testified Mr. Sullivan had recommended endorsement of the final ad hoc Committee report to Mr. Hoover and urged cooperation among the intelligence agencies "so that we can overcome past differences."

Following Mr. Hoover's rejection of the ad hoc report, Mr. Huston testified he had submitted a memorandum to Mr. [REDACTED], former counsellor to President Nixon, which recommended further pressure be brought to bear on Mr. Hoover to agree with the plan. See attached memorandum dated August 5, 1970.

Chairman Church and Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee, summarized their impression that although FBI, CIA, DIA, etc., had been engaged in mail openings, surreptitious entries, and electronic surveillance for a number of years prior to the ad hoc Committee establishment; President Nixon and his predecessors had been unaware of details of these illegal activities and that the ad hoc report sought Presidential "legitimization" for them. Additionally, President Nixon also had been unaware the CIA had been involved in domestic intelligence such as Agency operation CHAOS, and DIA involvement in the domestic intelligence field, etc. In short each of the intelligence agencies were "doing their own thing" with no fear of accountability. Endemic to the failure of the so called "Huston Plan" was Mr. Hoover's refusal to participate in it because of his question regarding the legality of expansion of mail cover operations.

At the suggestion of Chairman Church, Huston recommended the abolishment of our Internal Security Division as an integral part of FBI operations citing what he terms our limited analysis capability in the domestic intelligence field. Similar observations had been made to Mr. Huston by former Assistant Director Sullivan during the existence of the ad hoc Committee in 1970, and had been indicated, in Huston's mind, by Director Hoover's previous unilateral decision to curtail liaison activities with CIA. However, Mr. Huston did not cite specific examples of our shortcomings in this area, if any.